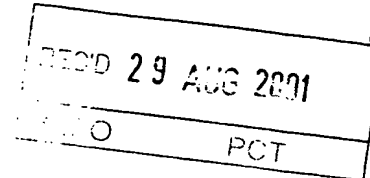


INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



Applicant's or agent's file reference 990073PC	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/SE00/00853	International filing date (day/month/year) 03.05.2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 06.05.1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC ₇ G06F 12/60		
Applicant POSTEN AB et al		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 1 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 29.11.2000	Date of completion of this report 14.08.2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/SE Patent- och registreringsverket Box 5055 S-102 42 STOCKHOLM Facsimile No. 08-667 72 88	Authorized officer Christer Wendenius / JA A Telephone No. 08-782 25 00

I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the elements of the international application:***

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
pages 1-5, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the claims:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement) under article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages 1, filed with the letter of 22.05.2001
- ☒ the drawings:
pages 1/1, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language english which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☒ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheet/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2 (c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item I and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE00/00853

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-3</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-3</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-3</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

From US 5699528 is known a method of the kind stated in the preamble of claim 1 comprising a computer system with a data base arranged to contain electronic mail addresses. The computer system sends mail items to the addressees having electronic mail addresses and physical mails to addressees that have not answered the electronic mail.

The known method lack a computer system with a data base containing electronic mail addresses of addressees who have expressed a wish to receive electronic mail and that sorts out as physical mail remaining addressees to which mail items shall be sent, as in the invention.

As the method in claim 1 in view of the documents cited in the ISR is new, is considered to contain an inventive step, and also is industrially applicable, the patentability criteria are met.

CLAIMS

1. A method of sending mail by means of electronic mail, wherein a sender (1) supplies information as to the mail volume to be sent, such as addressees (3) and mail contents, on data media to a receiver (2) who shall send the mail to the addressees, characterised by feeding the contents of said data media into a computer system (4), which computer system has a database (5), which is arranged to contain the electronic mail addresses of addressees who have expressed a wish to receive electronic mail causing the computer system (4) to send the mail items concerned by electronic mail to addressees that have an electronic mail address; causing the computer system (4) to sort out as physical mail (6) remaining addressees to which mail items shall be sent; and upon expiration of a predetermined time period from when unanswered electronic mail was sent causing the computer system (4) to sort out such addressees (3) for the purpose of sending a mail item by physical mail.

2. A method according to Claim 1, characterised in that the database (5) is caused to contain physical addresses to the addressees.

3. A method according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised by causing the computer system (4) to receive from the sender information relating to those addressees who have answered their mail.